

Operations Security Awareness

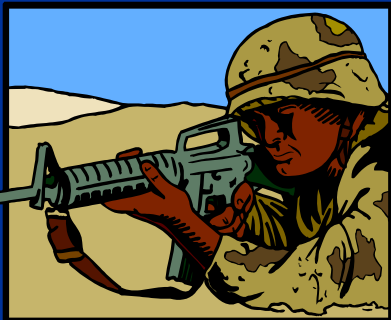
Agenda

- Introduction
- Define OPSEC
- OPSEC Terms
- Critical Information
- Online OPSEC
- OPSEC in Your Daily Activities
- Conclusion
- Questions



Introduction

As a member of the military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you play a crucial role in ensuring your loved ones safety just by what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. You can protect your loved ones by protecting the information that you know. This is known in the military as operations security or, OPSEC.



What Is OPSEC?

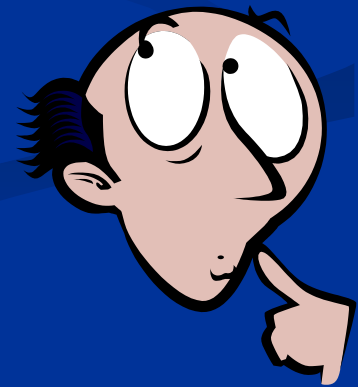
OPSEC is...

... keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission quicker and with less risk. Enemies of freedom want our information, and they're not just after the military member to get it. They want you too.



OPSEC teaches you to:

- Look at your daily activities from an enemies' point of view
- Understand what an enemy might know about you and your family
- Assess the amount of risk this places on you and your family
- Develop and apply countermeasures, which are ways of preventing enemies from gaining your sensitive information



Some OPSEC Terms

These are a few words you'll hear often when talking about OPSEC:

- Critical Information - Specific facts about you as well as our military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities
- Indicators - Any activity that seems innocent but could point to critical information
- Vulnerability - A weakness that someone can use to get your critical information

Some OPSEC Terms

- Risk - The probability that someone will gain your critical information, and the damage that could be caused if they are successful
- Countermeasures - Things you can do to stop others from learning your Critical Information



*Predator? Scavenger? When An
Adversary Is After Your Sensitive
Information, Does It Matter?*



*Think Like The Wolf!
Practice Good OPSEC!*

Photo by Gary Crowder, USFWS (NCTD)





So...What do our
adversaries want from
us?

“Critical Information”

Information the adversary needs to prevent our success

Information we must protect to ensure success

“Critical Information”

Unit capabilities or degradation

Details of Plans, Operations, Orders, or Programs

Deployment information (unit, personnel, duties, locations)

Security Plans/Measures

“Critical Information”

Critical shortages of medical items and personnel

Force Protection Levels, Alert Plans/Status, Vulnerability Assessments

User names and passwords

Exercise or evacuation plans, dates, locations

How do they get it?

Communications intercept

Pictures

Internet

Elicitation

Espionage



How do they get it?

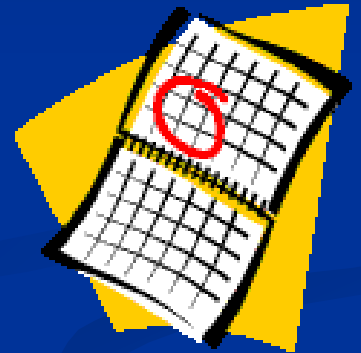
We give it to them!

- Web pages
- Email
- Unprotected communications
- Sharing too much with strangers

So... What can I Do?
“Countermeasures”

Limit what you say about...

- Military movements (deployment/redeployment dates, dates of field exercises, flight information etc.)... next Tuesday IS a specific date
- Any issues with the unit
- Anything concerning security
- Equipment issues (what, no flak vests?)
- Locations of units (it's OK to say they're in Iraq, but not to say that your spouses battalion is at 14th and Ramadan in Kadamiyah)



DON'T DO IT in these places:

- Clubs/Bars
- Restaurants
- Gyms
- Shopping
- Public transportation
- Basically anywhere
someone you don't know
could be listening



The Don'ts of OPSEC

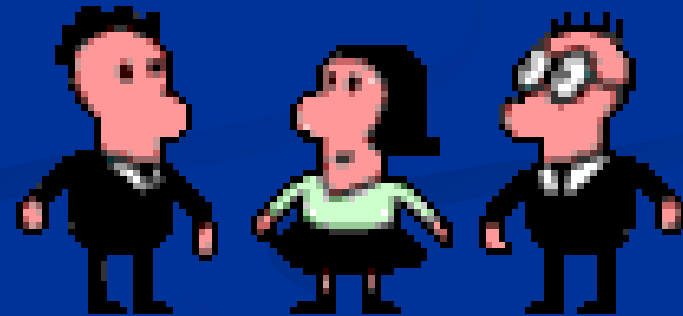
Don't:

- Discuss future destinations
- Discuss future operations or missions
- Discuss dates and times of exercises
- Discuss readiness issues or numbers
- Discuss specific training equipment

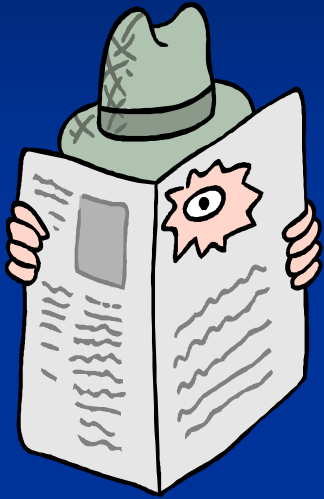


The Don'ts of OPSEC

- Discuss people's names and billets in conjunction with operations
- Speculate about future operations
- Spread rumors about operations
- Assume the enemy is not trying to collect information on military operations, you, or your family



OPSEC measures you should practice daily:



- Be aware of your surroundings
- Keep sensitive discussions in designated secure areas
- Keep a need-to-know attitude (if they don't need to know, don't tell them)
- Safeguard sensitive but unclassified information
- Shred all sensitive paper (“One man's trash is another man's treasure”)
- Leave your badge unattended or wear it off post

Badges

THE AEROSPACE CORPORATION
© 2004 The Aerospace Corporation



Do Not Leave Your Badge Unattended in Any Public Place, the Gym, on Clothing Taken to the Dry Cleaners, or in an Unlocked Vehicle.

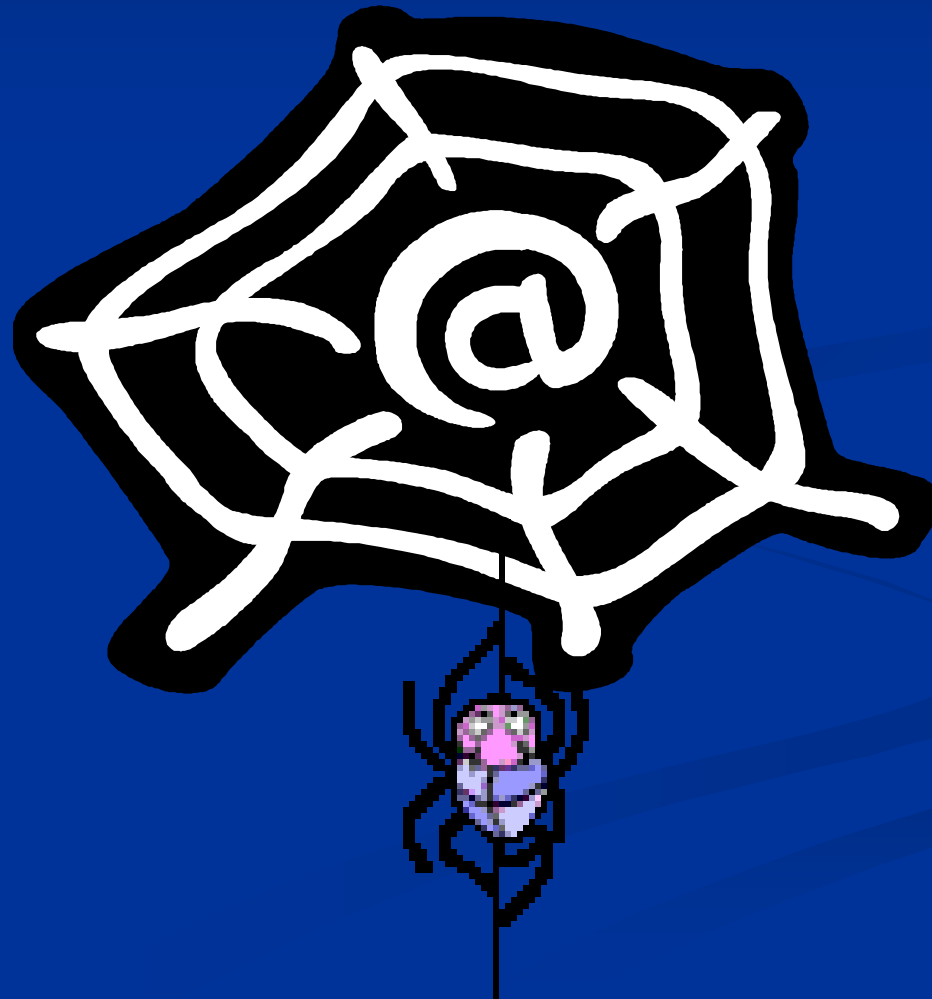
***Your Trash...
Could be an Adversary's
Treasure!***



Remember
OPSEC
Operations Security

Online OPSEC

The World Wide Web



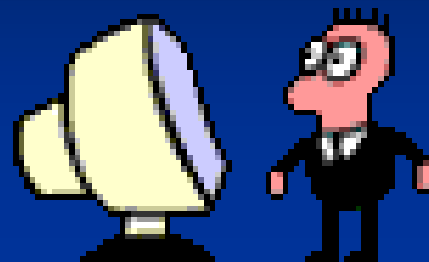
Personal Websites

Do you have one? Does it include information that strangers shouldn't know about your spouse's job and/or your family? Do you link it from forums and websites that you frequent?



Some OPSEC Measures You Should Practice Online

- Do not discuss sensitive information
 - E-mails
 - Chat rooms/instant messaging
 - Blogs
- Avoid posting excessive personal information on your family website
 - Employment information
 - Your family members full names
 - Your address
- “A picture is worth a thousand words...” Keep this in mind when posting them



***Remember... Anything put on the Internet
is available to ANYONE on the Internet...
It IS the World Wide Web***





"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

OPSEC In Your Daily Activities

Friends and Family



Do your friends and family who are not familiar with the military understand the importance of not revealing what you tell them? Are you sure? Talking with those you do share information about your spouse's comings and goings is a good idea. Not sharing the details is an even better idea.

Telephones

Simply put, they're not secure. Cell phones, cordless phones and land-lines can all be compromised. Censor what you discuss on the phone because you never know who could be listening in on you.



Out and About

Be careful what you talk about when you're out in public. You don't know if the person next to you is friendly or not.

- Joe the cashier at the grocery store
- Your spotter at the gym
- One of your neighbors



Point is, you NEVER KNOW!

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this briefing. Our goal is to provide you with a greater understanding of our security concerns. The information in this guide is not intended to make you paranoid or suspicious that everyone you meet is a spy or terrorist. **But stay alert...** if any stranger shows excessive interest in the affairs of you, your family members, military or not, please notify the proper authorities.



Questions?

America's First Line of Defense

*...And the rocket's red glare
the bombs bursting in air
gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there
O say does that star
spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?*
J. H. Key 1814

OPERATIONS SECURITY



www.ioss.gov

DCMM 04-1550N111

YOUR OPSEC OFFICER

907-8829

Rm CG1257-1



OPSEC Test

1. What is OPSEC?
 - a. Keeping potential adversaries from discovering critical information
 - b. Freedom from anxiety or fear
 - c. Ensuring safety belts are always worn in a military vehicle

2. What word fits this definition: Any activity that seems innocent but could point to critical information.
 - a. Critical information
 - b. Vulnerability
 - c. Risk
 - d. Countermeasure
 - e. Indicator

3. Think like the _____! Practice good OPSEC.
 - a. Elephant
 - b. Wolf
 - c. Eagle
 - d. Bear

4. To countermeasure the adversaries getting critical information, limit what you say about_____.

- a. Military Movements
- b. Security Concerns
- c. Unit Locations
- d. All of the Above

5. Cell phones, cordless phones, and land lines are all secure forms of communication.

- a. True
- b. False